

When Being Good Isn't Good Enough

(Luke 17:7-10)

- Introduction:
1. Many people go through life with the mistaken notion that they must be good enough to go to heaven.
 2. Contrast that with the song, "Just As I Am."
 3. While be "good" is necessary in order to go to heaven, just being good will not get us there.
 4. This lesson is intended to explain how people who are not good enough are "good enough" to go to heaven.

I. Humans Have A Problem With Sin

- A. The Reality of Sin.
 1. (1 Kings 8:46)
 2. (Psalm 130:3)
 3. (Isaiah 64:6)
- B. The Reaction to Sin.
 1. Blame others (Genesis 3:12-13).
 2. Hide it (2 Samuel 11; Joshua 7).
 3. Minimize it (1 Samuel 15:20-21).
- C. The Results of Sin.
 1. (1 John 1:5-6; Isaiah 59:1-2)
 2. (Romans 6:20,23)

II. Good Works Cannot Atone For Sin

- A. (Isaiah 64:6).
- B. (Luke 17:7-10).
- C. (Matthew 18:21-35).

III. The Clash Between Justice, Mercy, & Grace

- A. Definitions.
 1. Justice - Getting what we deserve.
 2. Mercy - Not getting what we deserve.
 3. Grace - Getting what we don't deserve.
- B. God must be just if he is to remain "God."
- C. Amnesty isn't a just solution to the problem of sin.
- D. Enter Jesus.
 1. (Isaiah 53).
 2. (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- F. (Romans 3:23-26) God can be both just and the justifier of sinners.

- Conclusion:
1. If we are to be saved, we need help.
 2. God offered that help in the person of Jesus.
 3. Will you obey his terms of pardon in order to be saved?